

COLLARWORKS



ARTIST HANDBOOK 2023



Elizabeth Murray Artist Residency by Collar Works

PROGRAM OBJECTIVE

The Elizabeth Murray Artist Residency program by Collar Works is designed to provide emerging and established artists an immersive, supportive, productive and communal atmosphere for art making and dialogue on a bucolic 77-acre farm in Washington County. The summer residency is offered for 6 weeks, with 2-week residencies for individual artists and 1-week residencies for families.

The residency program aims to create opportunities for artists to take risks and develop new contemporary works across many art forms, primarily visual and literary arts, while engaging in meaningful dialogue with fellow residents and arts professionals. Our goal is to create a residency program that responds to the critical needs of emerging artists and artists as parents, while striving to build a program that reflects the rich cultural environment of today through an active commitment to diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion. Since its inception, creating an environment that stands out as a safe space for creative risk taking, personal growth and respite has been a core goal of the Elizabeth Murray Artist Residency.

Elizabeth Murray believed that each person deserves an opportunity to make their art and for their art to be visible on equal platforms. With that in mind our goal is to provide inclusive space and access for all, regardless of differences of race, age, color, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, national origin, migratory status, disability/abilities, political affiliation, veteran status and/or socioeconomic background.

With its 77 acres of bucolic farmland, multiple bedrooms, common areas and barn-loft artist studios, the farm is an ideal residency location. For many years, the farm served as both a summer home for the Murray-Holmans and a creative retreat for Elizabeth Murray, whose studio was located in the large, cathedral-like dairy barn. Given the history, location and amenities, the family felt that the creative use of the property and its natural surroundings would carry on Elizabeth Murray's legacy.

Dedicated to supporting the legacy of Elizabeth Murray, the Collar Works team believes there is a kindred connection between its mission and what Murray's story symbolizes to artists, both individuals and parent artists who overcome adversity to achieve their vision.

ABOUT ELIZABETH MURRAY

Elizabeth Murray (b. 1940, Chicago; d. 2007, New York) belonged to a generation of artists who emerged in the 1970s and whose exposure to Cubist-derived Minimalism and Surrealist-influenced Pop inspired experimentation with new modes of expression that would bridge the gap between these two historical models. In this context, Murray produced a singularly innovative body of work. Warping, twisting, and knotting her constructed canvases, she has given the elastic shapes of classic surrealism a space in their own image.

Murray spent much of her childhood drawing. In 1958 she entered the School of the Art Institute of Chicago to become a commercial artist, but work by Paul Cézanne inspired her to pursue painting instead. After earning a BFA from the Institute in 1962 and an MFA from Mills College, Oakland in 1964, she moved to New York, where she developed her mature style.

Murray first exhibited at the Paula Cooper Gallery in 1974. Murray's work has been the subject of nearly sixty solo exhibitions in galleries around the world since her New York City debut in the 1972 Annual Exhibition: Contemporary American Painting at the Whitney Museum of American Art and has participated in six Whitney Biennial exhibitions since 1973. A comprehensive exhibition including over seventy-five paintings and works on paper, from the earliest phase of Murray's career in the 1960s through her most recent work was presented at the Museum of Modern Art in 2005 (only the fourth by a woman in the history of the Department of Painting and Sculpture a distinction previously given only to Louise Bourgeois, Lee Krasner and Helen Frankenthaler).

For more than two decades, Elizabeth Murray and her husband Bob Holman, together with their children, split their time between a TriBeCa loft and a classic farmhouse in Washington County, New York. Murray, who passed away in 2007, received numerous awards for her work, including the Skowhegan Medal in Painting in 1986 and a MacArthur Foundation "genius" award in 1999. In addition to her teaching position at Bard College (Annandale-on-Hudson, NY), Murray held visiting faculty appointments at a number of American colleges and universities throughout her stellar career. Elizabeth Murray's work can be found in over forty public collections in the United States. The Estate of Elizabeth Murray is represented by Barbara Gladstone Gallery.

In 2017, the Murray-Holman family partnered with Collar Works to design a summer residency program for artists.

ABOUT COLLAR WORKS

Collar Works is a 501(c)3 nonprofit contemporary art organization located in an historic collar factory at 621 River Street in North Central, Troy, New York. The Elizabeth Murray Artist Residency by Collar Works is located at 594 North Grimes Hill Rd, Granville, NY, approximately 1 hour 20 minutes North East of Troy, NY.

The mission of Collar Works is to support emerging, underrepresented artists and curators, working in any media, creating provocative and culturally relevant contemporary artworks as a way of enriching the cultural life of the regional community.

Collar Works provides a venue for community dialogue focused on serious, provocative and spirited artworks, educating the public through exhibits, residencies, gallery talks, lectures, workshops and other community outreach activities.

RESIDENCY MISSION

The Elizabeth Murray Artist Residency by Collar Works provides emerging to established artists a supportive, productive and communal atmosphere for art making on a bucolic 77-acre property in Washington County.

VISION

The residency program aims to create opportunities for artists to take risks and develop new contemporary works across many art forms, primarily visual, literary and performing arts, while engaging in meaningful dialogue with fellow residents and arts professionals. A long-term goal is to create a residency program that responds to the critical needs of emerging artists; to provide a fully supported residency experience.

HISTORY

The farm was the summer home and studio of the late visionary artist Elizabeth Murray, together with her husband Bob Holman and their family, for over two decades. The family continues to spend significant time at the farm and is committed to seeing her spirit thrive through inspiration and creative use of the property and its natural surroundings.

HISTORIC FARM HOUSE FACILITIES

- 5-7 private bedrooms
- 2 full bathrooms (shared)
- 2 bedrooms for staff
- Living Rooms
- Elizabeth Murray Art Book Library
- Dining Room
- Kitchen (Restricted Access)

STUDIO FACILITIES + BARN

- The Elizabeth Murray Studio – communal shared space for talks, critiques.
- 6 semi-private studios in upper barn loft overlooking Elizabeth Murray's studio. Accessed by a staircase, the space includes 6 semi-private studio spaces in a communal atmosphere (approximately 12'x18' with 3.5 white walls (drywall) for mounting, open doorway with curtain/screen, open ceiling to the cathedral-like barn ceiling, lighting, electricity, 1 table, chair(s), fan, easel. **There is NO wireless internet or Air Conditioning in the barn.** It is an old barn in a rural setting, and although we try our best to keep the temperature and wildlife at bay, there may be times where bugs, birds, bats, other wildlife are present and we encourage them to relocate outdoors. There also may be times where the studios get a little warm mid-day, and we encourage a pool break or rest. We do our absolute best, but also go by the mottos 'If at all possible, commune with nature daily' and 'Hey, if it was ok for Elizabeth Murray....!!!'
- Shared sink/ wash-room with shower. No toilet in barn. (short walk to house).
- For studio maintenance rules, refuse/hazardous materials use and disposal -we will cover this during orientation.
 - Artists are expected to bring all supplies and materials needed for their artwork.

PROPERTIES AMENITIES

- 77-acres of sprawling fields and woods, quiet + serene surroundings
- Pond
- In-ground Swimming Pool
- Private bedroom, linens provided
- Shared bathrooms, towels provided
- Internet (in the house only) There is a shared computer if needed and Wi-Fi*.

*We are going to be completely honest. There is no cell service on site (there is a land line), and the internet is slow. Basic internet use is manageable, but sometimes it just does not work. Streaming videos or downloading is near impossible. It's the biggest issue facing rural America. We highly recommend downloading files needed prior to arrival just in case, and better yet, consider this an 'unplugged' experience as much as possible. Many artists have commented on how this is the silver lining of the experience, even though we know it can be challenging at times. There is a local library with free internet 12 miles away, as well as cell service in-town (also 12 miles away).

NO Fee: We are committed to having EMAR be a supported, no cost residency. Our goal is to keep working towards providing artists with meaningful financial support and stipends. If you need financial assistance, please reach out to discuss your situation. We may have scholarships available to support your residency. If you do not need financial assistance and would like to make a contribution to the Residency Artist Fund, in support of scholarships for artists in need, we would be grateful.

Transportation: All residents are asked to provide their own transportation to and from the residency. Having a vehicle on premises is recommended, but not required. Collar Works will try to accommodate those artists without access to transportation on a case-by-case basis. Please reach out to us to discuss your needs.

Arrival/Departure: We ask that all artists plan to arrive between 10am-12pm on the first day of their session. We will host a lunch at 12:30pm, followed by an orientation. On the last day of the residency, we ask that all artists depart by 12pm. Of course, we will accommodate on a case by case basis if needed.

Offsite Amenities: The closest village is Granville, a 10-minute drive North. Here you will find a pharmacy, grocery store, gas station, tractor supply, hardware store, and other limited food/ retail options. Other villages nearby are Salem, NY; Cambridge, NY; Greenwich, NY; Dorset, VT; Bennington, VT, Rutland, VT. There are also many farm stores in the area for farm-to-table products such as dairy, eggs, meats, cheeses, fruits, vegetables, maple syrup and more.

Phone/Cell Service: Cellular service is completely non-existent on-site. We like to think of it as a 'mostly device-free retreat.' AT&T customers have better service in the area, and Verizon customers have non-existent/ limited and spotty service within a 10 mile radius. With the wifi- we have been able to receive/ send some (but not all) texts. We encourage all residents to use What's App or enable wi-fi calling on their cellular devices. FaceTime and iMessage does work. There is a landline house phone for

emergencies. There is a local library with internet access, and the village of Granville is 10 minutes away. Many residents utilize the Granville library.

Internet: There is a shared computer in house library. You may bring your own devices as needed for the creation of your works. With our limited, rural internet bandwidth, our wi-fi is the equivalent circa 1999 dial-up (not great). It's the best it can be currently due to regional infrastructure. But, we look at this as our blessing, not a curse. It is our philosophy that disconnection from devices provides greater opportunity for connection with others on site. We've experienced it first-hand, and it's quite special. That said, we encourage you to download all documents, digital materials, videos, music, etc...prior to your arrival for your use and enjoyment OFFLINE. It is difficult, near impossible to download files or stream videos on location. We respectfully ask individuals to NOT attempt to stream videos or music online while in residence or it will break the little internet we do have.

Meals: Daily dinners will be prepared safely by a chef-in-residence. There will be many breakfast and lunch staples/options for artists to assemble and eat meals on their own schedule. There will be access to drip coffee/tea, plenty of snacks and water will be available. Any specialty individual snacks or beverages must be provided by the artists. Dinners will be chef-prepared and individually plated/served to be experienced together in a family-style setting at 6PM daily. This communal meal has been a meaningful aspect of our program, where artists come together and share in dialogue and make connections.

The provided staples/pantry items include: milk (dairy and nondairy), eggs, bread, wraps, cereal, oatmeal, granola, fruit, yogurt, salad fixings (in-season vegetables, lettuce, dressing), tuna, hummus, peanut butter, almond butter, jams, and other potential items.

There will be the expectation that artists help with washing dishes after dinner, and rinsing dishes and placing them in the dishwasher during the day. We expect all residents and staff to contribute to helping keep the house and studios clean.

First Night (or Second) 'Slide' Slam:

You know the drill. 5 Slides, 5 minutes. After dinner Monday night, Artists in residence will have the opportunity to share their work with fellow residents. This is meant to be a brief introduction/ snapshot of your practice to spark dialogue and get to know each other. Each artist needs to bring 5 digital slides or excerpt video files on an external USB thumb drive. Poets, writers can bring work to read selections aloud.

Housekeeping/ Property Maintenance: We ask that everyone remove their outside shoes prior to entering house, and work together to generate little waste, live together sustainably, and help keep the property cleaned up and tidy during your stay. This includes making sure garbage, materials, and recyclables are properly disposed of. We ask that each artist help with small tasks each day such as helping clean up after nightly dinners, and keeping the kitchen and common spaces tidy after use. We will walk everyone through the bathrooms, kitchen, and laundry during orientation. It is important to note that there is not AC in the house. We do provide fans to everyone, and encourage everyone to keep all house windows closed during the day with fans on and open windows at night when it cools down. With old houses, this keeps the house cool and enjoyable, even on the hottest days.

Pool: We ask that the fence around the pool remain closed and latched at all times. No glassware or bottles, or sharp objects are permitted within the fenced area or within the pool itself. We request that no-one swim alone, nor under the influence of alcohol.

Studio Maintenance: All flammable materials must be properly contained in fire-safe bins and containers. All solvents must be properly stored overnight and disposed of accordingly in proper waste containers in barn wash room.

Please do not keep food in the studios or your vehicles. We do not want to encourage native wildlife. We also do our absolute best to keep the barn temperature manageable with constant air flow to make it an enjoyable, respectful, and productive space for all. During extreme heat days, the barn loft can get quite warm. Past residents found keeping constant air flow with fans, as well as adjusting their work schedules to mornings and evenings, while spending time in the pool and cool house helped.

Diversity, Inclusivity and Equity:

Our goal is to create a residency program that responds to the critical needs of emerging artists and artists as parents, while striving to build a program that reflects the rich cultural environment of today through an active commitment to diversity, equity, accessibility, and inclusion.

Since its inception, creating an environment that stands out as a safe space for creative risk taking, personal growth, and respite has been a core goal of the Elizabeth Murray Artist Residency.

Elizabeth Murray believed that each person deserves an opportunity to make their art and for their art to be visible on equal platforms. With that in mind our goal is to provide space and access for all, regardless of differences of race, age, color, ethnicity,

gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, national origin, migratory status, disability/abilities, political affiliation, veteran status and/or socioeconomic background.

Accessibility: The site is an historic barn and house property. It is our long term plan to make studios, living spaces, and the general property accessible. Unfortunately the property is not currently ADA accessible year-round, but we will work diligently with individuals on a case-by-case basis to best accommodate your needs. Please contact us to discuss your needs.

Pet Policy: We do not allow for personal pets on site during your stay. ***We do allow certified service animals if needed. Please contact us if this applies to you.***

Guest Policy: We do not permit individual artists in residence and/or families in residence to invite in outside overnight guests who are not accepted into the residency due to limited accommodations and liability.

Staffing: Collar Works will have staff onsite. This will include a full-time Residency Coordinator, Chef-in-Residence, Residency Artist Assistant, Residency Education Coordinator (during Family Session), as well as Collar Works' Executive Director at times.

Noise: Quiet hours commence from 6am – 4pm, and resume from 10pm – 6am. We ask to respect each others space. That no loud music is played in the studios, the house, or on the property, unless all residents are in agreement.

Conduct: We want to provide an atmosphere that is respectful, safe, inclusive, and productive. EMAR does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, origin, sexual orientation, marital status, disability, or any other human condition, and we expect this of others at ALL times.

Misconduct: Collar Works maintains the right to terminate any residency stay, and ask artists to vacate the property effective immediately, if the Board of Directors and Program Staff, deem any conduct behavior and actions to be against the general well-being and safety of others.

Liability: Collar Works does maintain general liability insurance for the duration of the residency, but we are required to have each individual sign a waiver prior to or upon arrival. This includes a COVID waiver. We do not allow the use of illegal drugs, firearms, or explosives, such as fireworks, onsite.

Cancellation: If a resident has to cancel their stay at EMAR for any reason, their residency cannot be postponed and their spot cannot be saved or rescheduled. They will have to reapply for future opportunities.

COVID Protocols and Guidelines:

Collar Works will be taking serious safety precautions to minimize as much risk as possible. Understanding that guidelines change as the risk changes, every effort will be made to keep the residency as safe as possible. Common areas will be cleaned and sanitized regularly. All staff will be tested regularly. There are private bedrooms and studios for artists (families may need to room together), but shared bathrooms, dining, and common areas in the historic farmhouse. The kitchen will be limited access to residents, but there will be access to a refrigerator and water, coffee/tea, microwave and toaster for resident artists. Pantry/Fridge will be stocked with staples for artists to prepare their breakfasts and lunches. Dinners will be prepared safely by a chef.

COVID Protocol and Vaccine Requirements: All residents and staff must show proof of COVID vaccination, including booster, at least two weeks prior to arrival. We understand children under 5 may not have access to the vaccine, but must provide negative test results. We are asking each resident to provide negative COVID testing results within 72 hours of arrival to EMAR (this includes each family member for the family residency).

Keeping our artists, their families, and staff safe and healthy is our utmost priority. We acknowledge that situations around COVID guidelines and restrictions may change and impact our planning and/or requirements. We will keep an open dialogue between administrators and artists to ensure appropriate planning. If you have questions, concerns, please contact us to discuss your plan for your arrival.

ITEMS TO BRING

- Art Supplies, tools + equipment as needed. There will be a chop-saw on site, and minimal basic tools, but it is best to bring what you need. The closest art supply store is either Arlene's in Albany, NY (1.5 hours) or Michaels in Saratoga Springs, NY (45min-1hr). There is a hardware store in Granville, NY (10 minutes). Artists have found success in ordering materials online and having them delivered quickly.

- Slide Show on a USB drive of current work (5 slides) for a Monday night Slide Slam.
- Clothes, Swim Attire
- Toiletries + Medicine, including sunscreen and deep-woods bug/tick repellent.
- Computer + charger, phone + charger.
- Any specialty personal food or beverage items that you require. We will not be providing alcohol or special beverages. House water is fresh, drinkable, spring water.
- Respect of self + others.
- Your creativity, mind + spirit

RESIDENCY FAQ

Is The Elizabeth Murray Artist Residency open year-round?

No, EMAR is currently only open Spring, Summer, Fall.

Are the studios private?

The studios at EMAR are semi-private. They are located in a hay loft of a former dairy barn, the same barn where Elizabeth Murray made her iconic paintings. They are each equipped with a six-foot table, a chair, fan, 3.5 walls and a privacy curtain at the entrance. Studios are all the same size: roughly 12 x 18 feet. The studios are not air-conditioned but are designed for air flow with large industrial fans and windows.

Does EMAR provide supplies?

EMAR does not provide supplies, and artists are responsible for bringing their own supplies. However, proper waste disposals and fire-safe containers are provided.

Are the days structured?

Days are not structured at EMAR, but residents are asked to respect quiet hours between 6am – 4pm, and resuming at 10pm – 6am. All meals are provided, with a chef-prepared communal dinner at 6pm.

Does EMAR accommodate family or pets?

Currently the EMAR schedules weeks 1-4 for individual artists only. Week 5 is dedicated to artists with families only. We are sorry but we can not accommodate outside guests or pets.

Are meals provided?

EMAR provides staples/stocked pantry for breakfast, lunch and snacks to be assembled by artists on their own schedule, and dinners are prepared and served communal family-style by an onsite chef at 6pm daily.

Is there an art supply store nearby? Are there tools and materials onsite?

The nearest art supply store to the residency is in Albany, about 1.25 hours away by car. There is a hardware store in the town of Granville, 10 miles from the residency. Currently, Collar Works expects all artists to bring the materials and tools/ equipment needed for their projects over the duration of their stay.

Are there amenities nearby?

The nearest town to the residency is Granville. It has a library, grocery store, small hardware store, pharmacy, gas station and restaurants. It is about 10 miles from the residency.

What are the accommodations like?

Residents stay in the farmhouse and former summer home of Elizabeth Murray and her family. Each artist is assigned to their own private room. There are two shared bathrooms in house, each with a shower. The kitchen is partially restricted to be used by the chef at times. The dining room, living room and library are shared spaces. Bedrooms are not air-conditioned, but are designed for continual airflow through several windows and fans throughout the house. Outside amenities include a pool, pond and 77 acres of fields, meadows and streams.

What is the EMAR Library?

EMAR has a room in the farmhouse dedicated to the late Elizabeth Murray's art book collection. The collection consists of over 500 books of artists and writers she admired. These books are available to the residents during their stay and must stay in the library/ dedicated living room.

Are there nature trails nearby?

Yes. There are several nature and hiking trails within a short drive of the farm. We advise that artists bring "Deep Woods" bug repellent and sunscreen. It is a rural area. There are ticks and mosquitos.

Are there medical facilities nearby?

The closest emergency room/hospital is in Glens Falls, a 45 minute drive from the farm. There is a doctor's office in Granville that is open regular business hours by appointment.

What is phone/cell service like?

There is a land line available for artists to use for emergencies. Cellular service is either spotty or non-existent, and is unreliable onsite. You can get good cell service in Granville, 10 miles from the farm. We encourage use of What's App onsite, Wi-Fi calling or Facebook Messenger.

Is there internet?

Yes, there is BASIC internet available in the house to artists in residence. There is a shared computer in the library and wi-fi. Currently, there is not any internet in the barn or

studios. We also ask that residents use the wi-fi in moderation and do not individually stream online videos/ content due to limited internet bandwidth in this rural area.

Is EMAR ADA accessible and accommodate disabilities?

Although Collar Works is working towards a site-accessibility study in order to make improvements, currently this historic house, barn and studio property is not currently ADA accessible year-round. We will diligently work with individuals on a case by case basis to help meet your specific needs. Applicants to EMAR should be aware that there are no medical facilities or medical personnel on site. If you are an artist with a disability, and/or require a certified service animal to be in residence with you, please reach out to us so we can discuss your needs and how we can best accommodate you.

Are there any other policies I should know?

The use or possession of illegal drugs is prohibited at EMAR. Collar Works Organization reserves the right to end a guest's visit when responsible officials judge it necessary to do so for the good of the community.